

APRIL 12, 2011 LSPA MEETING MINUTES

The meeting began at 8:45 am in the cafeteria.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT – SARAH GIROTTI

Sarah Girotti updated the LSPA on the impact that the late March failed vote for a general override will have in the town and for our schools. Please refer to Sarah's document titled "School Committee Updates, 12 April 2011" for all key points. The following points provide additional clarity to some of her points:

- For the town, the impact of the failed override will most likely be in the closure of the West Side fire station and loss of the Minuteman network privileges for the Public Library
- Of the 3.5 FTE losses required in FY12, only 0.5 will impact the elementary schools, with most of the remainder at the high school – more manageable there as the high school's population is currently flat
- The deeper cuts expected in FY13 (15.5 FTEs) and in FY14 (9.0 FTEs) will most likely come from teachers, not administrators, as our district already operates thin here as compared to other districts our size
- The FY12 Capital Plan has allocated \$50k to equip all schools and town buildings with WIFI capability, but it is not quite enough, so outside grants are being sought.

PLAYGROUND UPDATE – CHRIS FURLONG

Improvement ideas and initiatives continue. Chris circulated pictures to show that there is "dead space" between the current basketball hoop to the outer fence that could be paved to create additional useable space without eliminating useful grassy areas. A 2nd hoop could be added facing the current one to create a pseudo-basketball court. The cost to pave the area and the cost of the hoop are \$2,600. Chris also shared the website of a company – www.naturalplaygrounds.com – which manufactures very natural-looking play stations and structures. Chris recommended the "Post Walk" (\$542) and the "Stepping Stones" (\$200) for our playground. Jay Gill (Winchester DPW) will need to know by June whether the LSPA chooses to fund all of these improvements so that the work can be done and completed during the summer.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes from the February 8, 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved as is.

SPEDPAC UPDATE – JANET BOSWELL

Janet introduced herself to the LSPA, as she is the new Chair of the SPEDPAC (Special Education Parents Action Committee) and announced she is actively looking for a co-chair to help! Please contact her if interested. Janet recently attended a 3-day training for district staff, the objectives of which were 1) to

improve how the staff works together and 2) to integrate the PAC with other organizations and resources. There are 50 students at Lincoln who receive special education resources as part of a formal plan, and many more who receive and benefit from the resources we have on a more informal basis. Many of the speakers whom the PAC secures are relevant to all parents, and improving awareness of this opportunity among the broader population is one of the committee's goals. The LSPA formally voted on and approved to donate \$300 in support of the SPEDPAC initiatives.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Closing Balance for the fiscal year-to-date period ending March 31, 2011 was \$38,530.20. Lietza Molloy presented the budget and highlighted the following items:

- On the revenue side, the Direct Appeal has now exceeded budget by 2% (\$565), and the Spirit Wear sale generated \$2,772 of revenue and ~\$750 of net profits
- On the expense side, field trip and other enrichment expenses have now begun to come in against the budget, with over \$3,800 accounted for in February and March

FY12 BUDGET PREVIEW

Bridget Stump and Kate Carpini shared the initial budget assumptions with the LSPA. The proposed budget would be \$28,903, a decrease of \$804 from this year's budget of \$29,440. Given the current utilization we have seen against the class teacher spending, the FY12 budget has reduced this expense from \$6300 to \$5025. Given the extent of the playground improvements that need to continue, that budget was increased year over year from \$400 to \$1400. Most other budget categories remained largely the same. Bridget reminded the LSPA that we currently are operating with a \$20,000 budget surplus, which needs to be and can be used for additional initiatives as agreed to.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – LAUREN GARNEAU, SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST, ANTI-BULLYING TRAINING

In May of 2010, the state passed anti-bullying legislation. After attending an in-depth "train the trainer" seminar, Lauren trained all Lincoln staff on 4/7/11 on the new terms and reporting and investigating procedures that the district has outlined in accordance with the state legislation. The following bullets "high-spot" the presentation Lauren gave to the LSPA:

- Lauren emphasized that "normal social conflict" is not bullying. It happens frequently and is best characterized by the fact that *both* participants are equally involved. This conflict should be handled based on the Open Circle principles the staff and students understand.
- There are 3 characteristics of Bullying that must all be present in order for the situation to be considered bullying, and all must be borne out through Kate Scanlon's investigative procedures. These are:
 1. There exists a purposeful intent to harm, either physically or psychologically
 2. There is a "power differential" – one student holds more than the other
 3. It is a repeated pattern of behavior, either against the same target or the same behavior directed at multiple targets

- Characteristics of Bullies vs. Targets (and note language change from “Victims” to “Targets”)
 1. Bullies are popular, well-liked, and “smooth-talking” – they know how to work the system
 2. Targets come from any vulnerable group, they are often intimidated and are afraid to seek help
- The “gateway” behavior of bullies is often subtle – not “fists” but eye-rolling, staring, pointing, stalking...in other words, not “illegal” and more easy to slide the behavior under the radar
- It is key to respond. First, notice! Be aware and watch for signs. If you see something, separate students immediately – this is critical and should occur without much conversation so as not to allow the bully the opportunity to talk his or her way out of it. Next, it is important to talk to and listen to the target (and don’t “tell” them what they should do or feel, actively engage them). Finally, report to administration and allow the investigative procedures and any follow-up to occur.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Kate Scanlon opened by thanking the entire LSPA. She worked with Bridget and Kate to identify a “wish list” from the teachers and staff that could be funded by the LSPA’s current surplus funds. This list includes a few more interactive boards, 2 iPads for the specialists, a copier, rugs & chairs, additional hard top on the playground, and various enrichment events. These will be considered and voted on by the LSPA before the conclusion of the school year.

Kate also mentioned that the safety committee is organizing a 4th grade bike safety training class.

The meeting concluded at 10:10am.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Shepard.